

For Immediate Release

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HERSETH SANDLIN RECEIVES FOREST LANDOWNER CHAMPION AWARD

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Washington, DC (September 23, 2010) — Today, Rep. Herseth Sandlin announced that the Forest Landowners Association (FLA) has selected her to receive the Forest Landowner Champion Award in recognition of her leadership in Congress promoting the use of forest biomass and improving forest health.

“I am honored to receive this award from the Forest Landowners Association for my work focused on South Dakota communities in the Black Hills. I will continue to work hard to improve forest management, to support the use of forest biomass for renewable energy, and to foster economic development in rural communities,” said Herseth Sandlin. “I’m committed to a comprehensive approach to renewable energy and forest health that will create good jobs in rural areas, reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and pine beetle outbreaks, and decrease our dependence on foreign source of energy. We need to attack these challenges using every tool that we have,” said Herseth Sandlin.

In making the award presentation, FLA CEO Scott Jones stated, “Without Representative Herseth Sandlin’s presence in the United States Congress, the family forest landowners would face a much more hostile atmosphere there.”

Herseth Sandlin has taken a multifaceted approach to promote healthy forests, renewable energy, and rural jobs. To improve forest health, Herseth Sandlin has proposed a number of measures to combat the mountain pine beetle in the Black Hills National Forest and other

western forests. Herseth Sandlin also worked with a bipartisan group of western lawmakers to introduce the Healthy Forests Restoration Amendments Act of 2009, bipartisan, common-sense legislation that would address many of the threats faced by the Black Hills National Forest, by strengthening the existing tools available to federal forest managers to bring the most diseased and fire prone forests back to health.

Herseth Sandlin has also worked to broaden the definition of cellulosic biofuels in the Renewable Fuels Standard through the Renewable Biomass Facilitation Act. This bill would broaden the definition include woody biomass gathered from national forests, including the Black Hills National Forest. Additionally, Herseth Sandlin joined last year with Rep. Wally Herger of California to introduce the bipartisan Renewable Biomass Fairness Act, which will provide energy produced from renewable biomass an equal tax incentive as for wind and solar. She also worked with Rep. Kurt Schrader of Oregon to introduce the bipartisan Incentives to Increase Use of Renewable Biomass Act. This bill would establish a program at USDA to provide interest-free loans for converting existing equipment or installing new equipment to use renewable biomass for energy generation, heating, or cooling.

In presenting the award, the FLA noted that the Congresswoman has steadfastly shown determination to seek a solution for the problems of family forest owners by demonstrating her understanding of the concerns landowners have relative to their land and their lives. The FLA also stated that these are just some of the reasons that the Forest Landowners Association believes Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin deserved not only this award, but the gratitude and appreciation of non-industrial, private forest landowners across the United States.

The Award is rarely given and Ms. Herseth Sandlin shares this bipartisan honor with recipients Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) and Senator Max Baucus (D-MT).

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